

Mid-Sized Communities Forum



City of Merritt
Cynthia White, CAO

2021 BC Atmospheric River Event

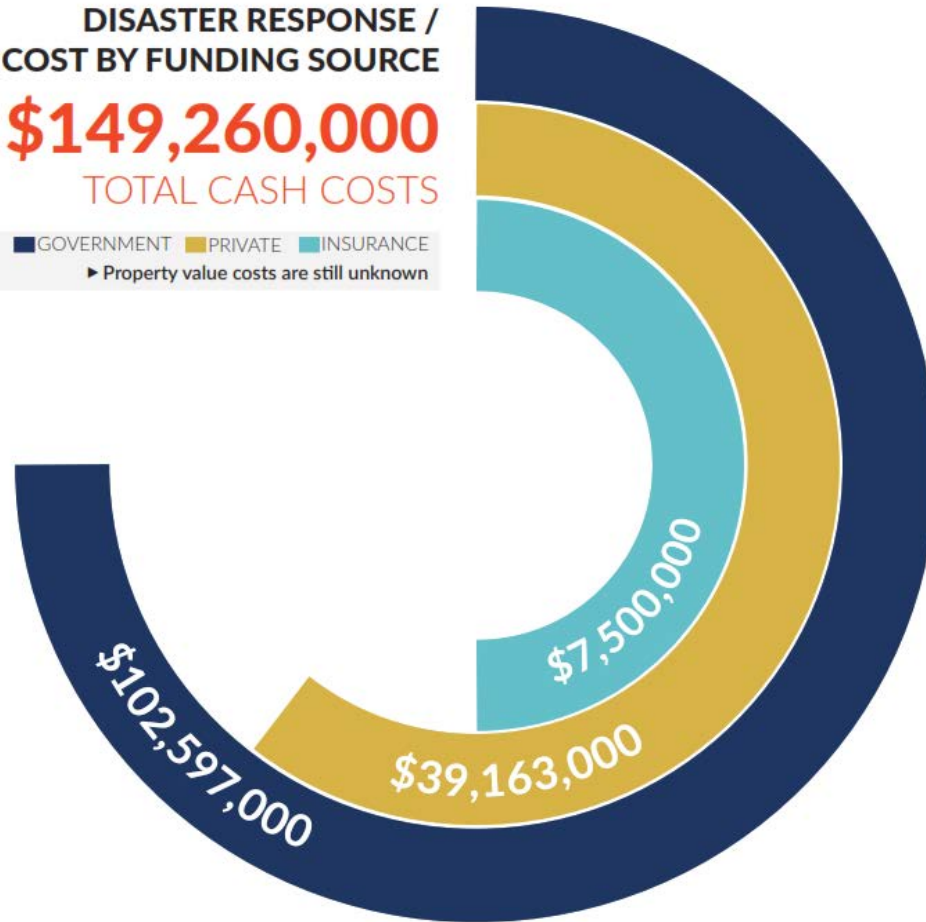
DISASTER RESPONSE /
RECOVERY COST BY FUNDING SOURCE

\$149,260,000

TOTAL CASH COSTS

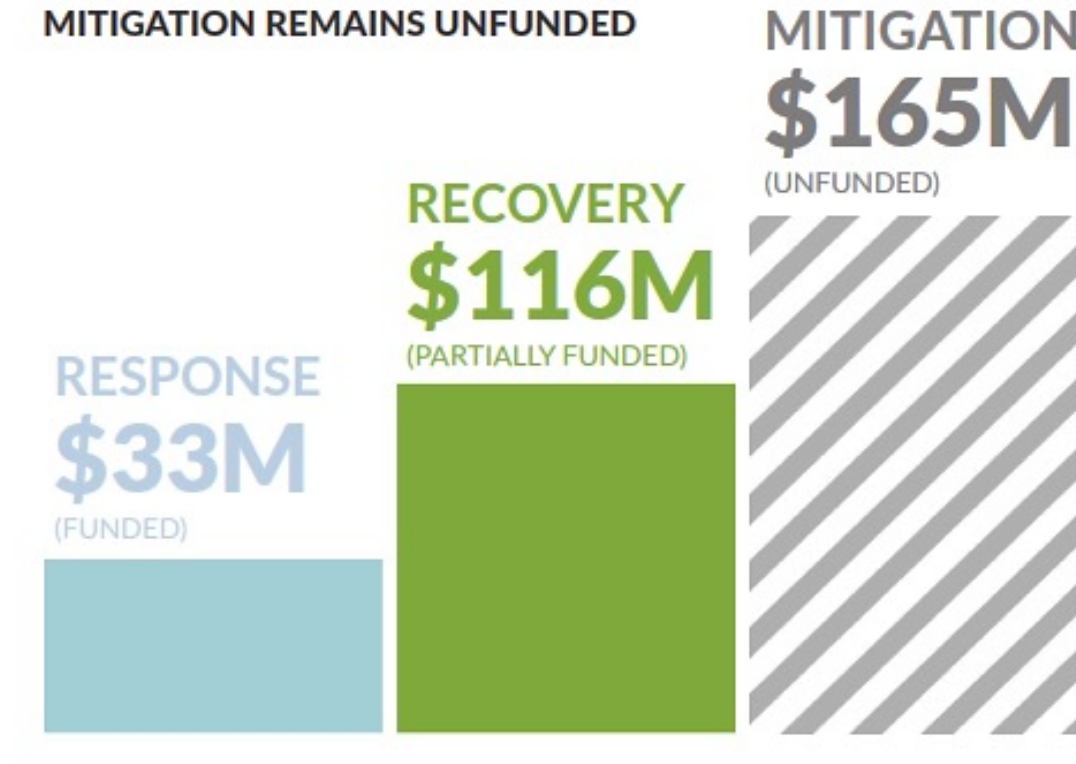
■ GOVERNMENT ■ PRIVATE ■ INSURANCE

► Property value costs are still unknown



2022 Flood Mitigation Plan - FMP

Original FMP Development



Merritt
FLOURISH UNDER THE SUN

FINAL REPORT

Flood Mitigation Plan
Project Number: 2021-2385-02
November 2022

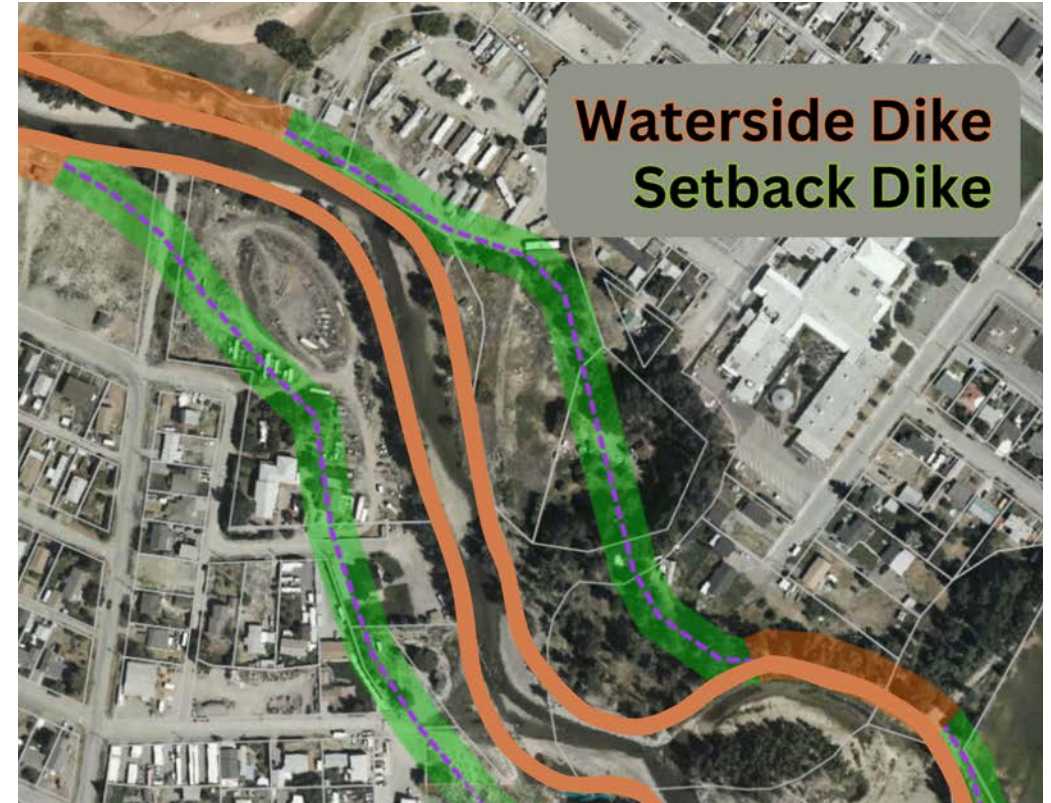
2022 Flood Mitigation Plan - FMP

Setback Dikes (vs Current Waterside Dikes)

The Flood Mitigation Plan focuses on **setback dikes** to allow natural river flow and naturalize nearby riparian areas.

Provincial and Federal governments are currently only funding rebuild of waterside dikes.

Merritt needs funding for land purchases to execute environmentally modern Setback dikes.



Flood Mitigation Plan – Funding

14 total projects

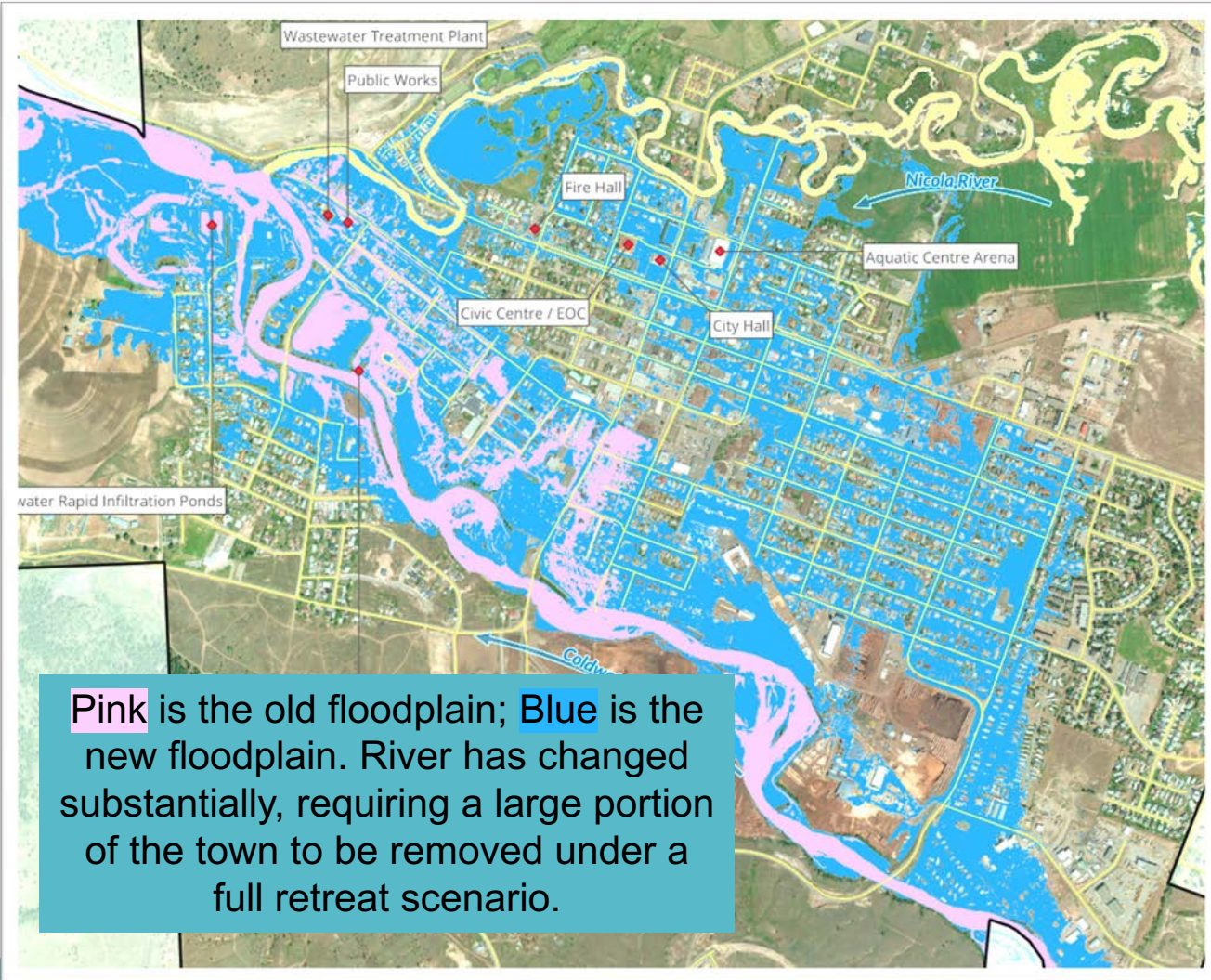
8 have clear funding path

5 were waiting on DMAF

4 projects, \$68 million of dike building, will **NOT** be able to proceed without C-LAP (Coldwater Land Acquisition Program) approval.

All are ‘shovel ready’ with enough engineering done to proceed immediately!

The Cost of Doing Nothing



- 1-in-200-year design flood has increased by 208%
- Expected damages from this event went from **\$36 million to \$440 million**
- *Flood Construction Elevation* increased between **1 meter and 2.4 meters**

Indigenous Engagement Plan (IEP)

1

To engage with the Bands regarding Traditional Knowledge, environmental impacts, and integrating culture and customs.

2

To understand the historical and cultural context of the region and various project sites as it relates to the Bands.

3

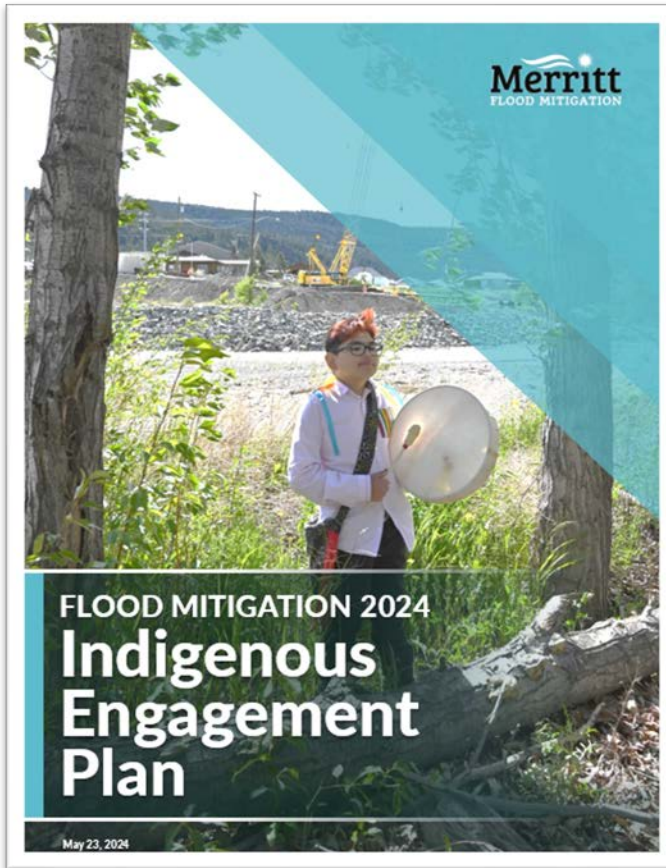
To explore opportunities and/or partnerships through the design and delivery of flood mitigation projects.

4

To follow any requirements of Crown consultation on the potential impacts of the project on the exercise of Aboriginal title and rights.

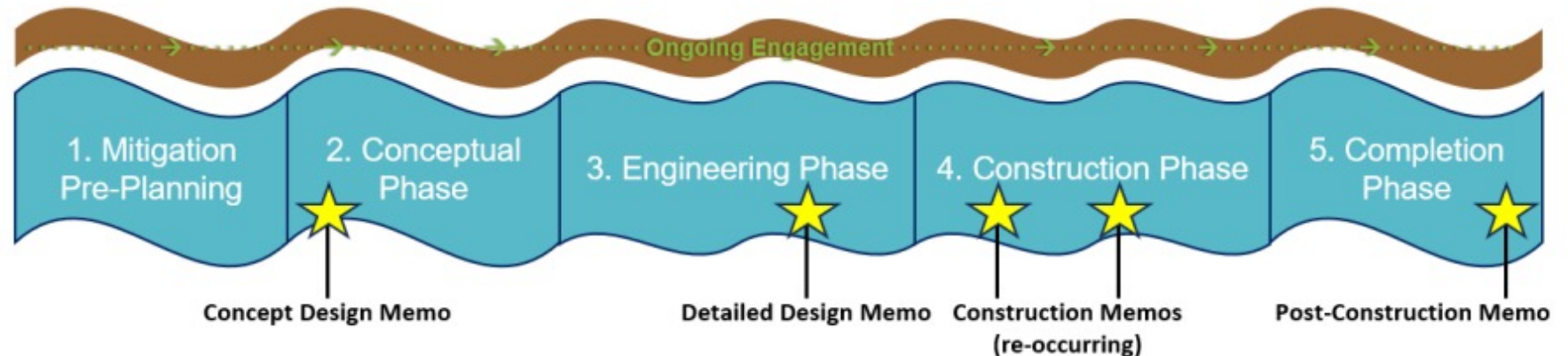


Indigenous Engagement Plan (IEP)



- Listening, Acknowledging, Considering
- Continuous Learning & Improvement
- Cultural Understanding
- Traditional + Western Knowledge
- Open Dialogue
- Relationship Building
- Collaboration & Partnership

Indigenous Engagement Manager was hired in July 2023 and has been responsible for building and executing the IEP.



STUWI(x) Naturalization Project

What is the goal?

The STUWI(x) project aims to respect the natural state of the river while incorporating ancestral views.

Priorities will be...

- Creating a natural area with no permanent structures.
- Needs to be within budget
- Planting native species to increase riparian area
- Enhancing fish habitat along the riverbank
- Providing a publicly accessible natural space



STUWI(x) Steering Committee

How the committee works

- Non-political appointees (community member, elder, knowledge keeper, technical expert, etc.)
- September 2024 to Summer 2027
- Meeting Frequency: 2x month, 18 months
- Meeting Duration: 1-2 hours
- Meeting Location: Centrally located
- Committee members will update their chief and council

The Indigenous Engagement Manager will chair the committee and be supported by an external facilitator.

Eptymology

Stuwi'x People

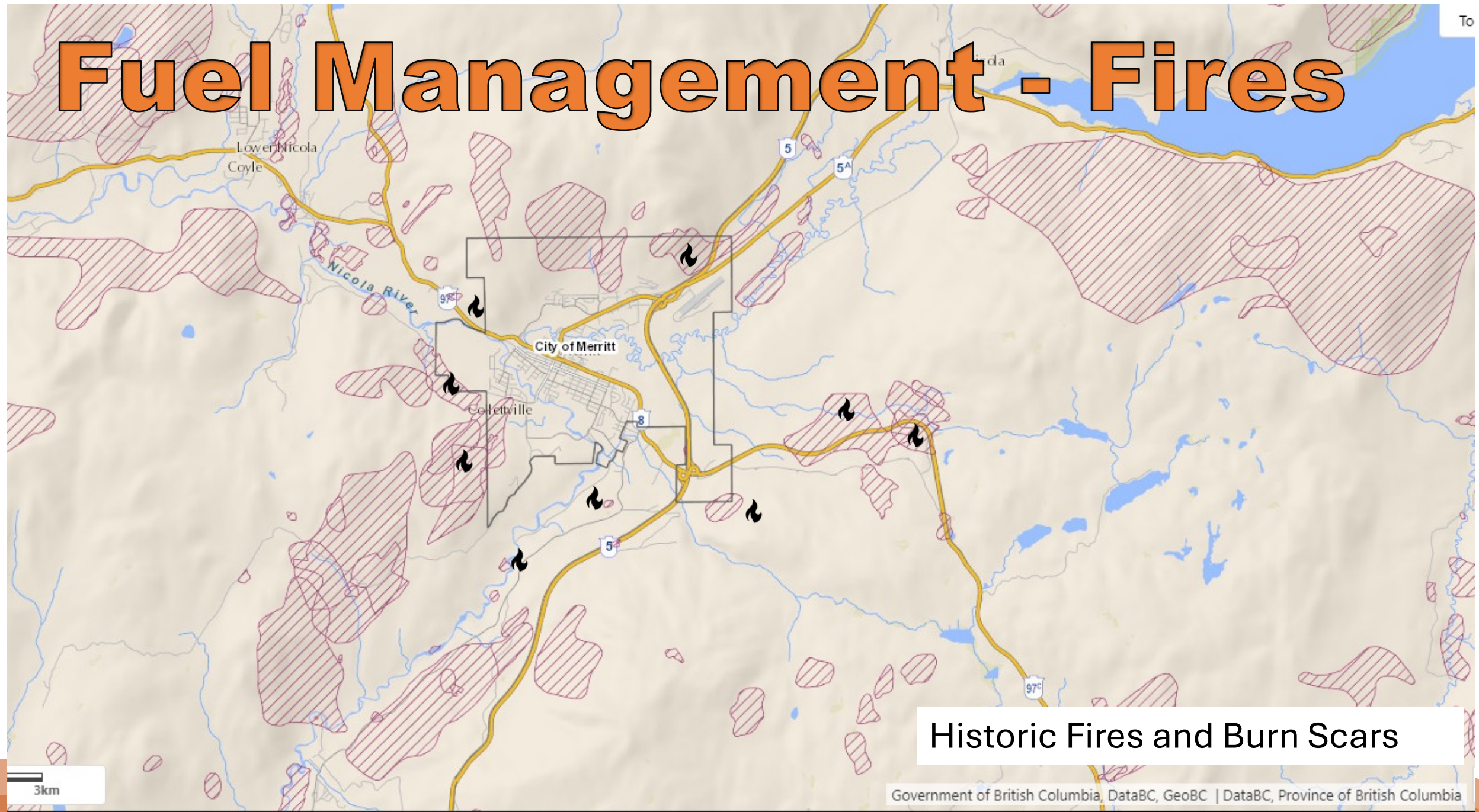
Meaning "the strangers"; Nicola Athapaskans or Nicola People) were found in the Nicola Valley a few centuries ago. Later they acculturated to the Scw'exmx-Silyx Nicola People

s?uyu?sups

Literal translation Confluence of Coldwater Creek and Nicola River, at Merritt

?uy – root base meaning gather

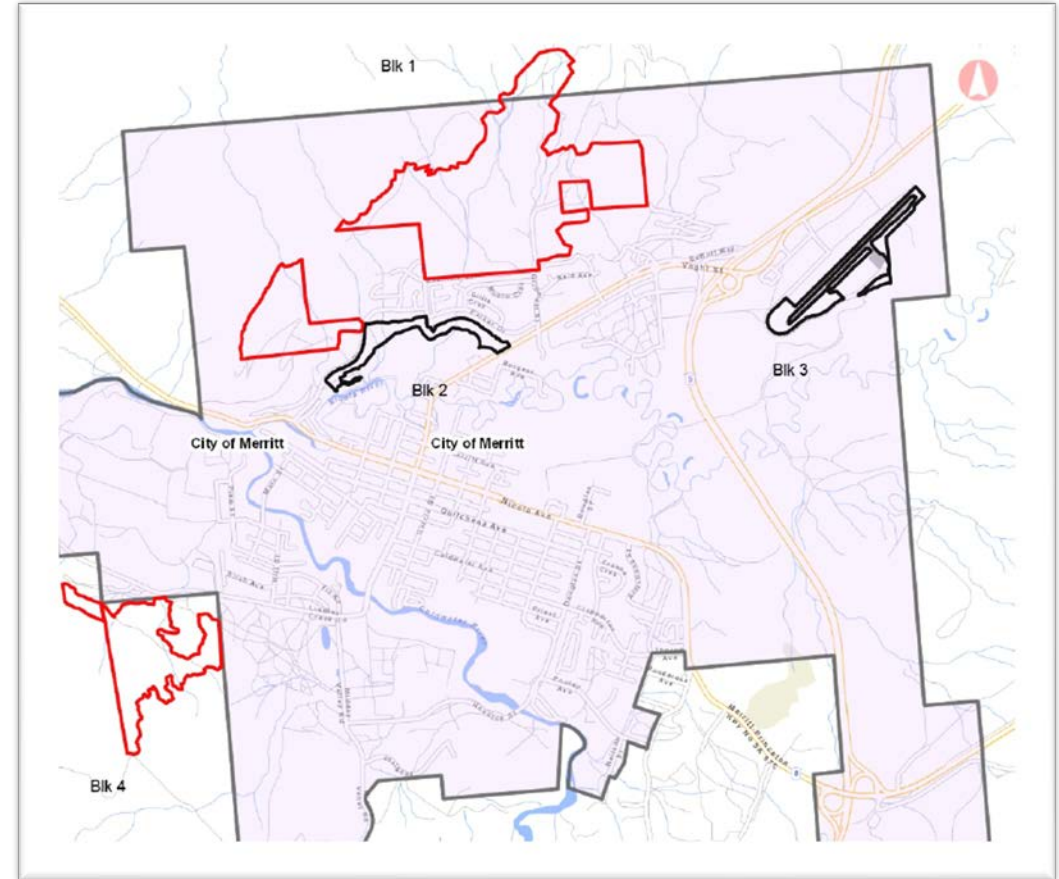
Fuel Management - Fires



Historic Fires and Burn Scars

Fuel Management Plan Overview

- At present, 234 hectares (578 acres) under prescription.
- As of 2021, all identified stand modification complete.
- Maintenance Prescriptions Ongoing.
- Prescribed burning challenges.
 - High Smoke Sensitivity Zone
 - Public Acceptance
 - Burn Plan Development
 - Burn Boss Certifications
 - Adequate Funding



Fuel Management Strategies - Forest



Based on recommendations from our Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP), specific fuel management prescriptions have been developed for targeted treatment units (TUs).

- Funded through Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program.

Fuel Management Objectives:

- Negate crown fire potential, reduce fire intensity, improve forest health and enhance community safety.

Prescription Methods:

- **Thinning:** Reduce tree density from ~1500 to 350 stems/hectare to open the canopy.
- **Pruning:** Remove ladder fuels to prevent fire spread into the canopy.
- **Fuel Removal:** Pile and burn excess biomass.



Targeted Grazing: Block 2 Fuel Reduction

Location: 12-ha area above Central Park,
below Parker Drive

Key Objectives:

- **Homes Upslope Protection:** Reduce fire intensity to safeguard nearby residential areas.
- **Wildfire Hazard Rating:** Reduce from HIGH to Moderate

Fuel Characteristics:

- **Fuel Type:** Standing and Matted Grass
- **Pre-Treatment Load:** 4 tonnes/hectare
- **Post-Treatment Load:** Less than 2 tonnes/hectare
- **Treatment Cost:** \$2,550 per hectare
- **Retreatment:** 2-4 years



Target Grazing – the Benefits

Reduced Fire Intensity

Cost Effective

Non-toxic, non-polluting, nearly carbon-neutral

Controls Noxious weeds, grass and brush

Soil Enrichment

Reduce Public Health Risks - Tick Habitat

Widely Accepted by Public

Results of Target Grazing with Goats



- Overall, surface fuel loading reduction was achieved; less than 2 tonnes / ha.
- Goats prefer browsing woody shrubs, saplings, and seedlings in comparison to grasses and prefer eating vegetation above shoulder height.
- On the steep slopes and ridges, where goats maintained their preferred forage position, fuel reduction was sufficient, but at the flat slope base, where goats would have to lower their heads and consume non-preferential vegetation, fuel reduction was patchy.
- Alternative livestock might be considered. Example: Sheep preferentially consume less shrubs and small woody plants than goats and have a higher preference for grass and forbs.



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Local Government Climate Action Program

The Cariboo Regional District and the City of Williams Lake work together to address opportunities to further increase the ability to transform and improve energy savings and reduce green house gases.

The desire to meet climate action goals, prepare for impacts of climate change and transition towards a net-zero future is heavily dependent on the **Local Government Climate Action Program**. LGCAP ensures stable funding to provide future developments in reducing GHG emissions, prepares communities for the impacts of a changing climate and ensures we are continuously working towards a clean energy economy.

Two Projects:

Solar Panel Installation	2023-2024	Completed
Heat Recovery	2024-2025	In Progress





Solar Panel Installation 2023/2024



The Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex is owned by the Cariboo Regional District and operated by the City of Williams Lake.

The multi purpose facility now hosts a 227.5kW rooftop solar panel array, which offsets the facility's utility electrical consumption, by harnessing energy from the sun.

The infrastructure upgrades included 500 solar modules mounted on a flat roof ballasted racking system.



Grid-tied Photovoltaic

PV Racking System	flat torch on roof
Photovoltaics	(500) 455W solar modules
Inverters	paralleled commercial string inverters
Annual PV Energy Generation 1	234.5MWh
Total Peak Systems Capacity	225.5kW de

Lifetime CO2 Offset

567 homes' electricity use for 1 year





Hakai Energy Solutions Installation
Falcon Engineering Project Manager





The Cariboo Regional District has also utilized this program to install solar panels on two other recreation centers'; South Cariboo Recreation Centre in 100 Mile House and the Forest Grove Curling Rink - as well as eight community halls and two airports.

WILLIAMS BRITISH COLUMBIA LAKE

Cariboo Rec Complex Solar Display


Current Power
152.26 kW

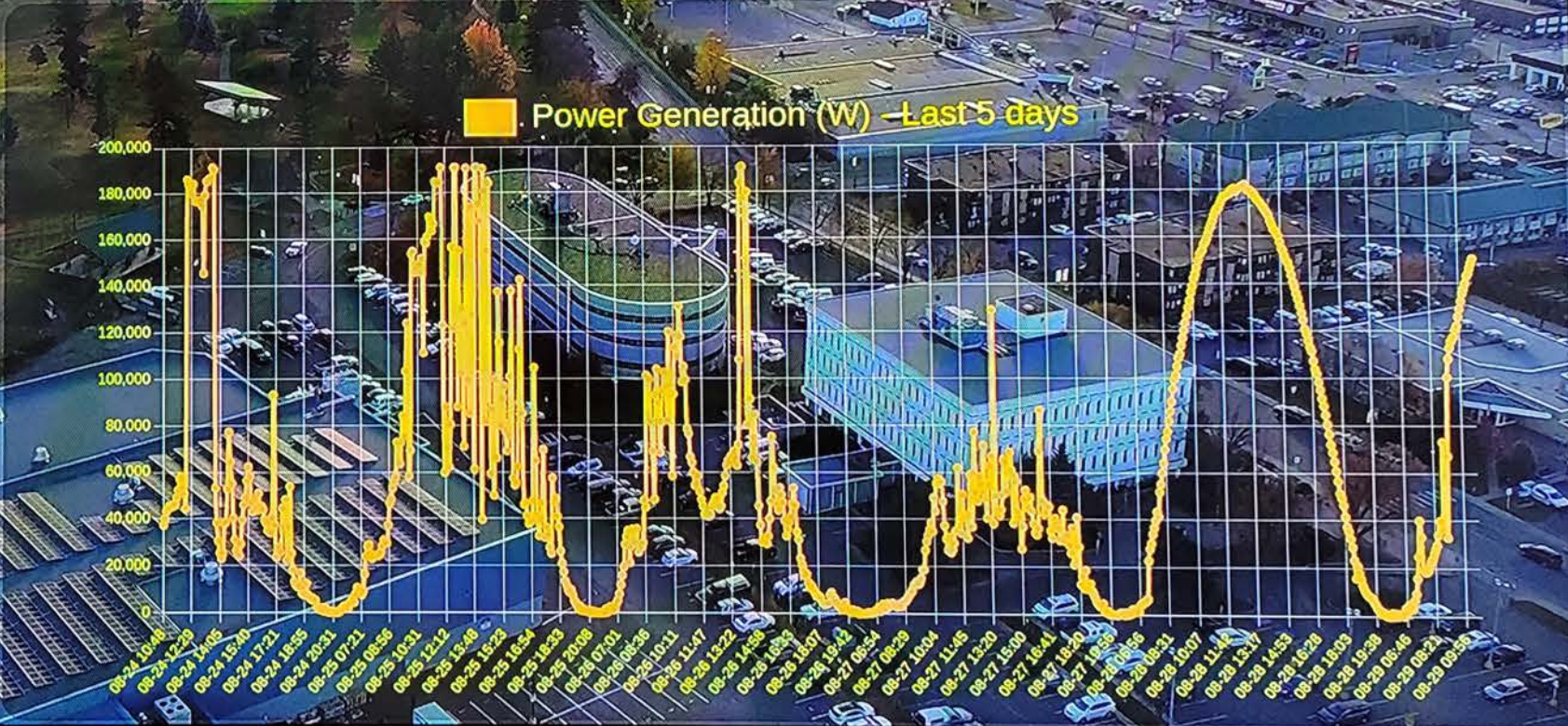
Energy Today
151.3 kWh

Energy This Month
31879.1 kWh

Lifetime Energy
215078 kWh

Williams Lake, BC
 14° C
 23° C
 24° C
 9° C
 23° C Thu
 24° C Fri

 CO₂ Emissions Saved
84310.6 Kg
 Equivalent Trees Planted
2516.4 trees



Last Update: 2024-08-29, 10:49:53 a.m.

Community Works Fund

The Community Works Fund (CWF) is one of the funding streams of the **Canada Community-Building Fund**. The CWF allocates funding to all local governments in BC based on a per capita formula that includes a funding floor. Local governments may direct the funding towards eligible costs of eligible projects as set out in the CWF agreement and report annually on these projects and their outcomes.

Approximately \$465,000 was the total project cost.



Community Works Fund

Community Energy Systems Stream

Infrastructure that generates or increases efficient use of energy.

Examples include:

- ✓ Renewable electricity generators
- ✓ Electric vehicle infrastructure/fleet vehicle conversion
- ✓ Hydrogen infrastructure (generation, distribution, storage)
- ✓ Wind/**solar**/thermal/geothermal energy systems
- ✓ Alternative energy systems that serve local government infrastructure
- ✓ Retrofit of local government buildings and infrastructure not captured in any other eligible category



Heat Recovery Project 2024/2025



Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (**IBA-ICIP**) – Green Infrastructure – Climate Change Mitigation Sub-Stream Clean BC Communities Fund

Project # IG0678 – Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex

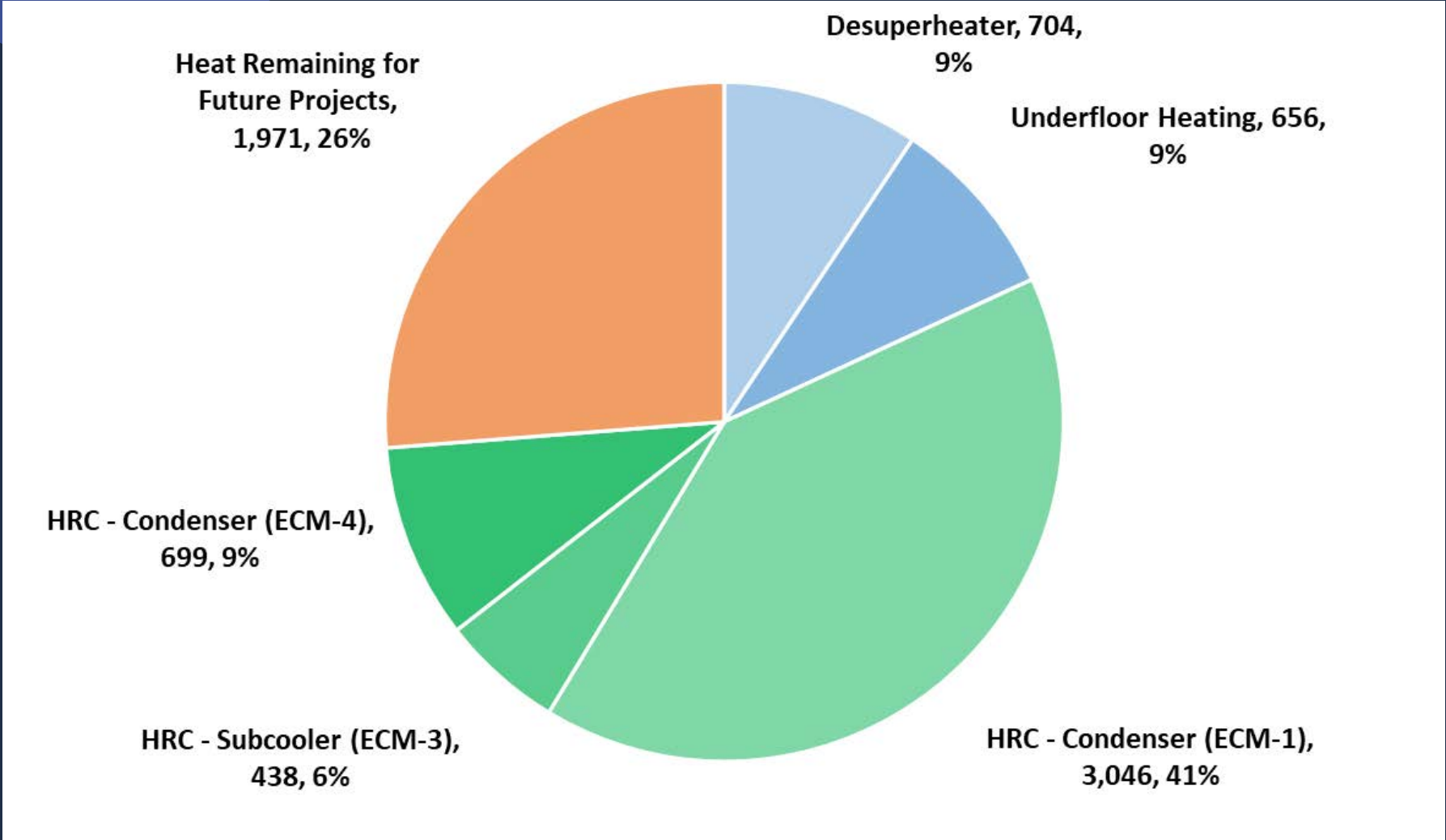
The Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex Energy Recovery Project will consist of the following:

- air-handling unit pre-heat coil;
- **replacement air-handling and make-up air units;**
- repair and re-purposing of ammonia desuperheater;
- **heat pump and glycol heating loop(s);**
- integration of heating loops with existing and new HVAC equipment; and
- **mechanical, electrical, control/monitoring, signage, and other related works and appurtenances.**

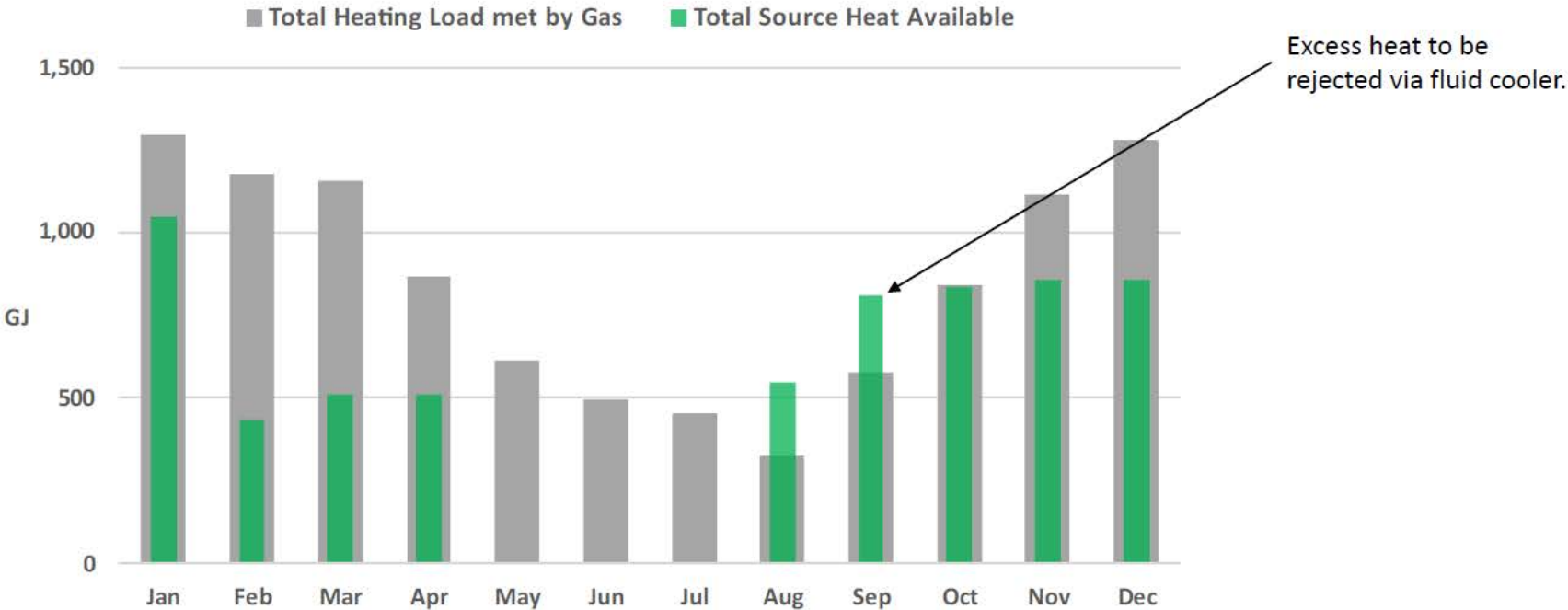
Supporting ventilation improvements in publicly owned buildings was an additional funding stream added during the pandemic. This was to support pandemic response and economic recovery efforts. Funding is approved under the Green Infrastructure – Climate Mitigation Clean BC Communities Fund.



Heat Recovery for the Project



Heat Recovery Potential



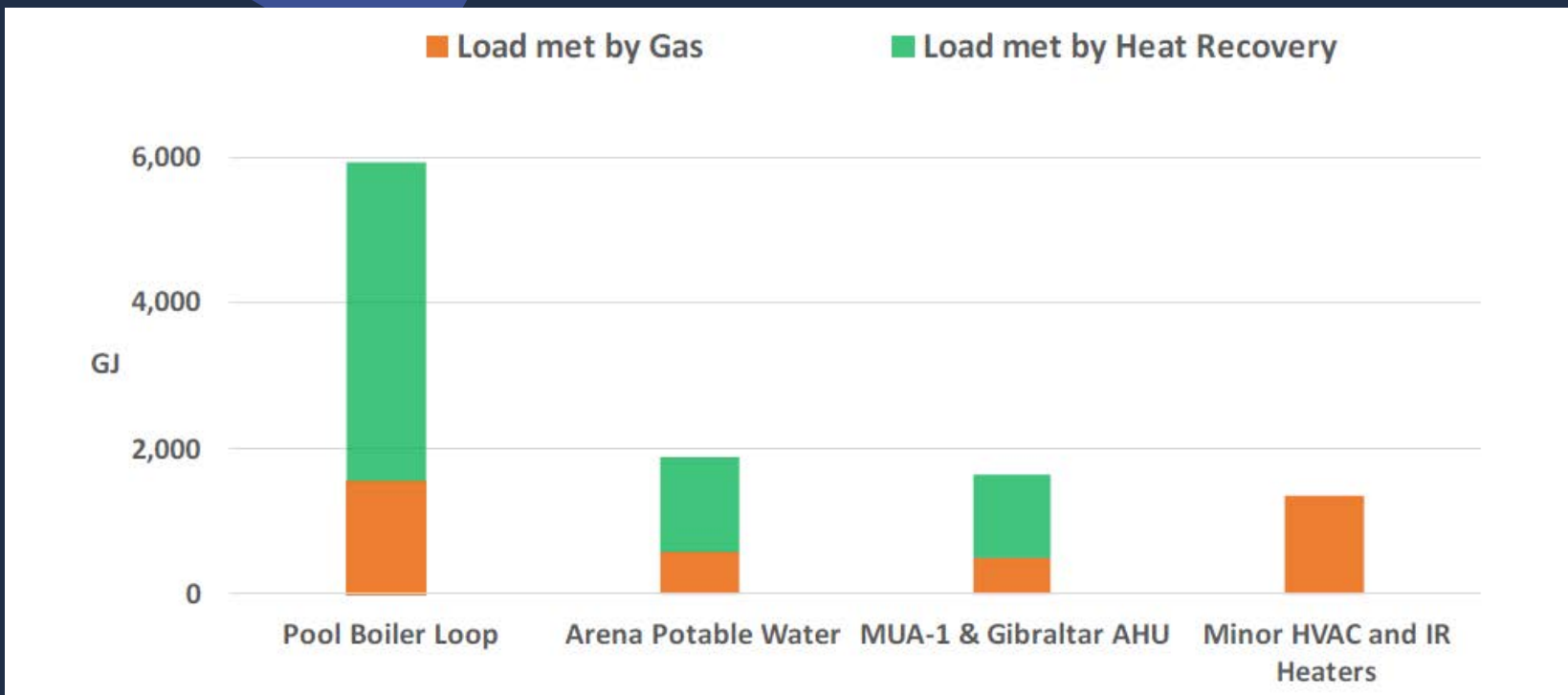
- Total Source Heat: ~7,500 GJ/year
- Total heat load met by gas: ~10,000 GJ/year



Energy Impact

Pool Boiler Loop and Arena DHW:
MUA-1 and Gibraltar AHU:
Minor HVAC and IR Heaters:

~25% by gas.
~30% by gas.
100% by gas.





Heat
Recovery
Chiller
designed
by
**Polar
Engineerin
g**

FORTIS BC

Custom Efficiency Program

If you want to improve the energy efficiency of a commercial, industrial or agricultural building or facility, we'll work with you to develop a custom solution. From energy studies to implementing energy conservation measures, this program provides funding to help you achieve energy and cost savings. It's all part of our commitment to transform BC's energy future by helping customers lower their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and supporting the Province's Roadmap to 2030.

You must be a Fortis BC Customer to Qualify for up to \$500,000

- Incentives are the lesser of:
- ✓ \$6/GJ over the measure life of a natural gas efficiency project
 - ✓ \$0.03/kWh over the measure life of an electric efficiency project (note: this incentive is for FortisBC or municipal electricity customers)
 - ✓ 75 per cent of the invoiced project costs
 - ✓ a maximum of up to \$500,000 for commercial building or agricultural lighting projects, or up to \$1.5 million for industrial facilities





IBA_ICIP

Shared Cost agreement with the Province of BC and the Government of Canada for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Outcomes must have one of:

- ✓ Increased capacity to manage renewable energy
- ✓ Increased access to clean energy transportation
- ✓ Increased energy efficiency of buildings
- ✓ Increased generation of clean energy

Projects must result in measurable GHG reductions and climate change mitigation.

Projects must improve or build new tangible infrastructure, primarily for public use and benefit.



Required and
Important

Use Your Networks

Professional Associations
Peers
Businesses

CALL

Watch Other Projects

Community Centers, Arenas, Pools

CALL

Get On Information Lists

Government Websites, Grant Opportunities, Webinars,
Conferences

CALL



Further Information:

Stacey Miranda
Director of Community Services
City of Williams Lake
smiranda@williamslake.ca
250 392 1786



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Whistler Climate Resilience

2024 UBCM Vancouver

Luisa Burhenne

Manager of Climate and Environment

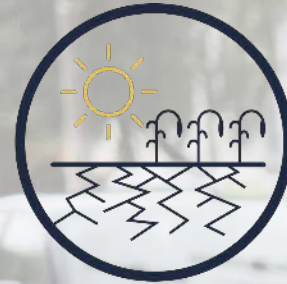
Resort Municipality of Whistler

Whistler



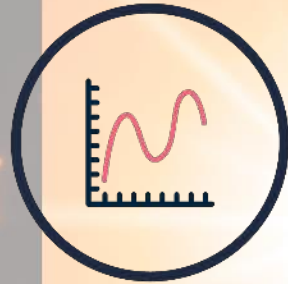


Extreme rainfall & flash flooding

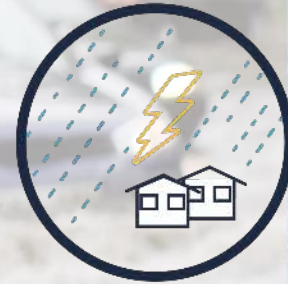


Increased summer droughts & heat waves

Increasingly variable winter freezing levels



More frequent and intense storms and atmospheric rivers



CLIMATE CHANGE

EXTREME
weather events put people,
infrastructure & nature at risk

More frequent
rain on snow events



Warmer winters



Increased risk of
wildfires



Less winter snow at
lower elevations





MITIGATION

Transportation



1 MOVE BEYOND THE CAR



2 DECARBONIZE PASSENGER & COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION



3 REDUCE VISITOR TRAVEL EMISSIONS

Buildings



4 BUILD ZERO EMISSION BUILDINGS



5 MAKE EXISTING BUILDINGS BETTER

Waste



6 CLOSE THE LOOP & SHIFT TOWARD LOWER CARBON CONSUMPTION

ADAPTATION



7 MINIMIZE THREATS FROM WILDFIRES



8 INCREASE RESILIENCE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS



9 PROTECT LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS & BIODIVERSITY

50%
REDUCTION
BY 2030

**LOW-CARBON
RESILIENT
COMMUNITY**

Climate change and wildfire risk



Minimize threats from wildfires



- Whistler is surrounded by forest
- Climate change leads to hotter dryer summers
- Wildfires are the biggest climate change related risk in Whistler

Whistler's Wildfire Management Program



Minimize threats from wildfires



FUEL THINNING

GOAL:

Reducing forest fuels on municipal and crown land to reduce the ability of fire to spread from the forest into the community and vice versa, and to make wildfires easier to fight.



FIRESMART PROGRAM

GOAL:

Helping private property owners reduce wildfire risk in their yards and by using fire resistant building materials. The RMOW offers support through FireSmart property assessments, wood chipper program and Neighbourhood Work Days.



EMERGENCY PLANNING

GOAL:

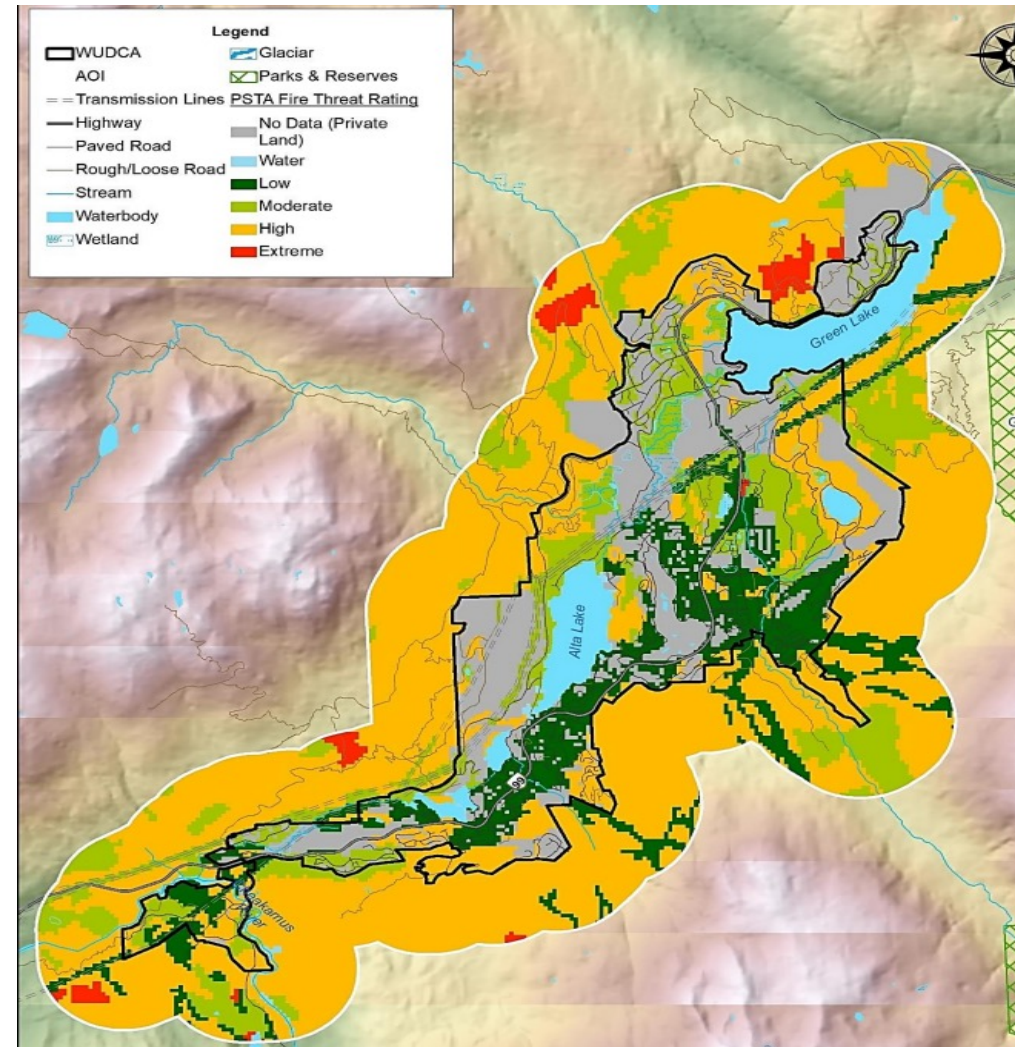
Developing Community Wildfire Defense Plans to ensure water delivery, quick response, adequate firefighting equipment and enhancing public education

CWRP collaborative efforts

Minimize threats from wildfires



- FireSmart and fuel thinning communications
- Emergency planning
- Training and education
- Vegetation management



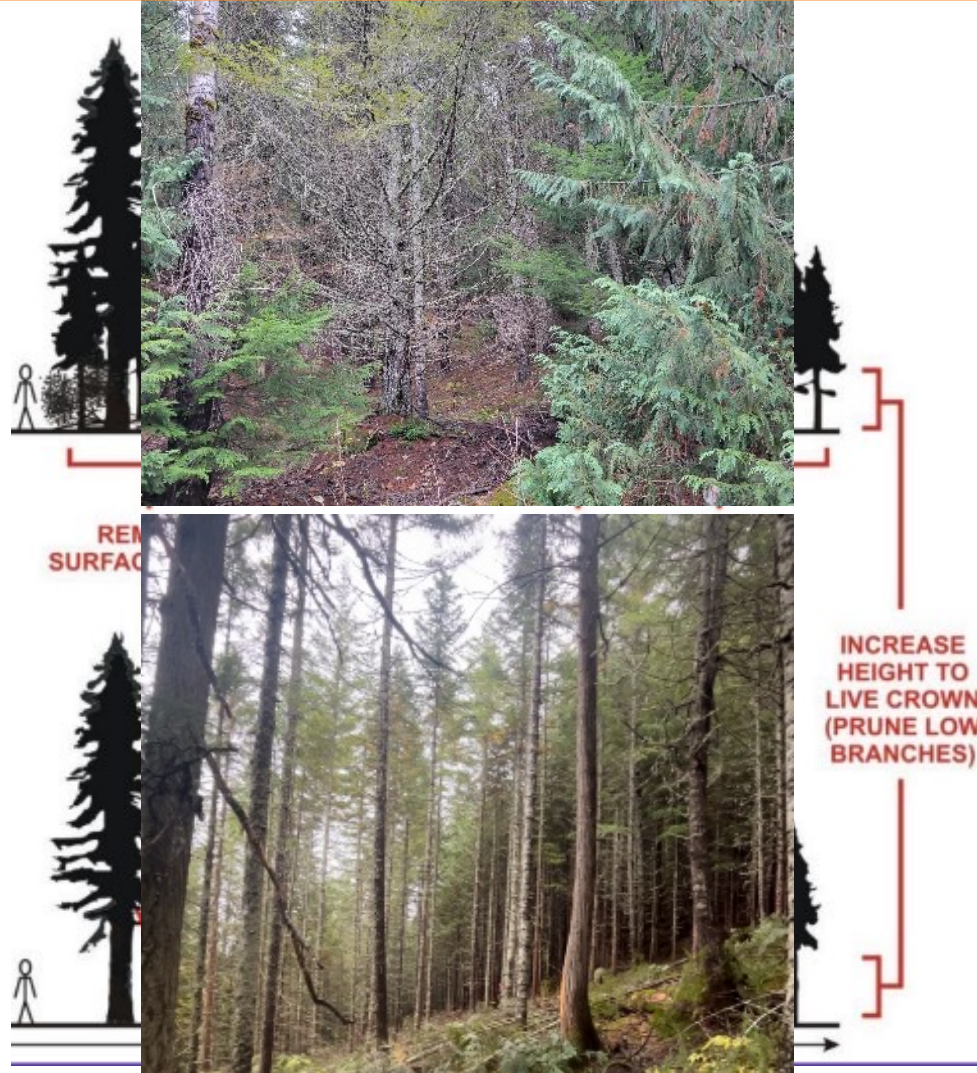
What is fuel thinning?

Minimize threats from wildfires



Before thinning

- Dense and young
- Little light on forest floor
- Poor habitat for wildlife



After thinning

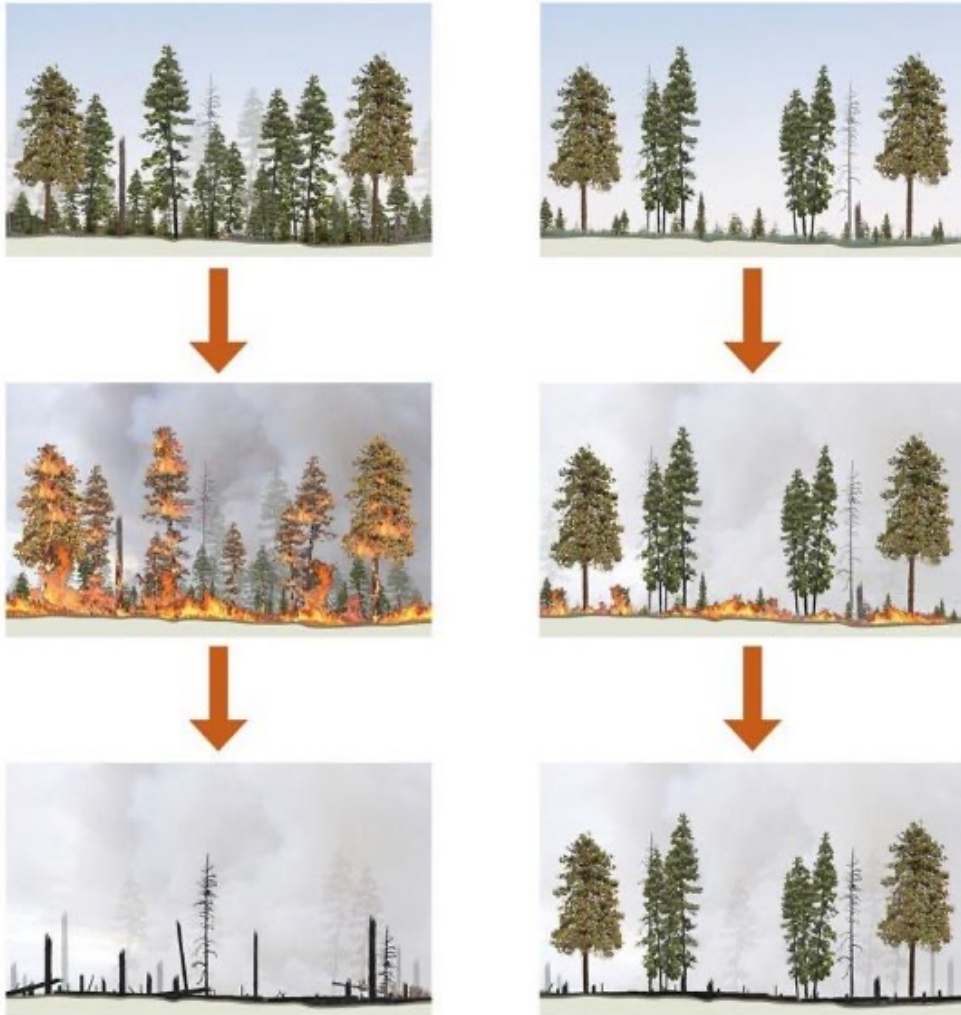
- Structure of old forests
- More light on forest floor
- Better habitat for wildlife
- Reduced fire hazard



Fuel thinning is an important tool in wildfire mitigation



Minimize threats from wildfires



Received Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Funding for 12 high priority areas in Whistler

Municipal Natural Asset Management Initiative

Increase resilience to extreme weather events



What are *municipal natural assets*?

- **Natural resources or ecosystems** that a community could rely upon and/or manage for the **sustainable provision** of one or more **local government core services** such as drinking water supply, storm water management, or protection from flooding and erosion



Photo: Fitzsimmons Creek, one of Whistler's primary waterways

Why manage municipal natural assets?



Increase resilience to extreme weather events



- Core services provision
- Climate resilience
- Co-benefits
- Fiscal savings
- Risk management

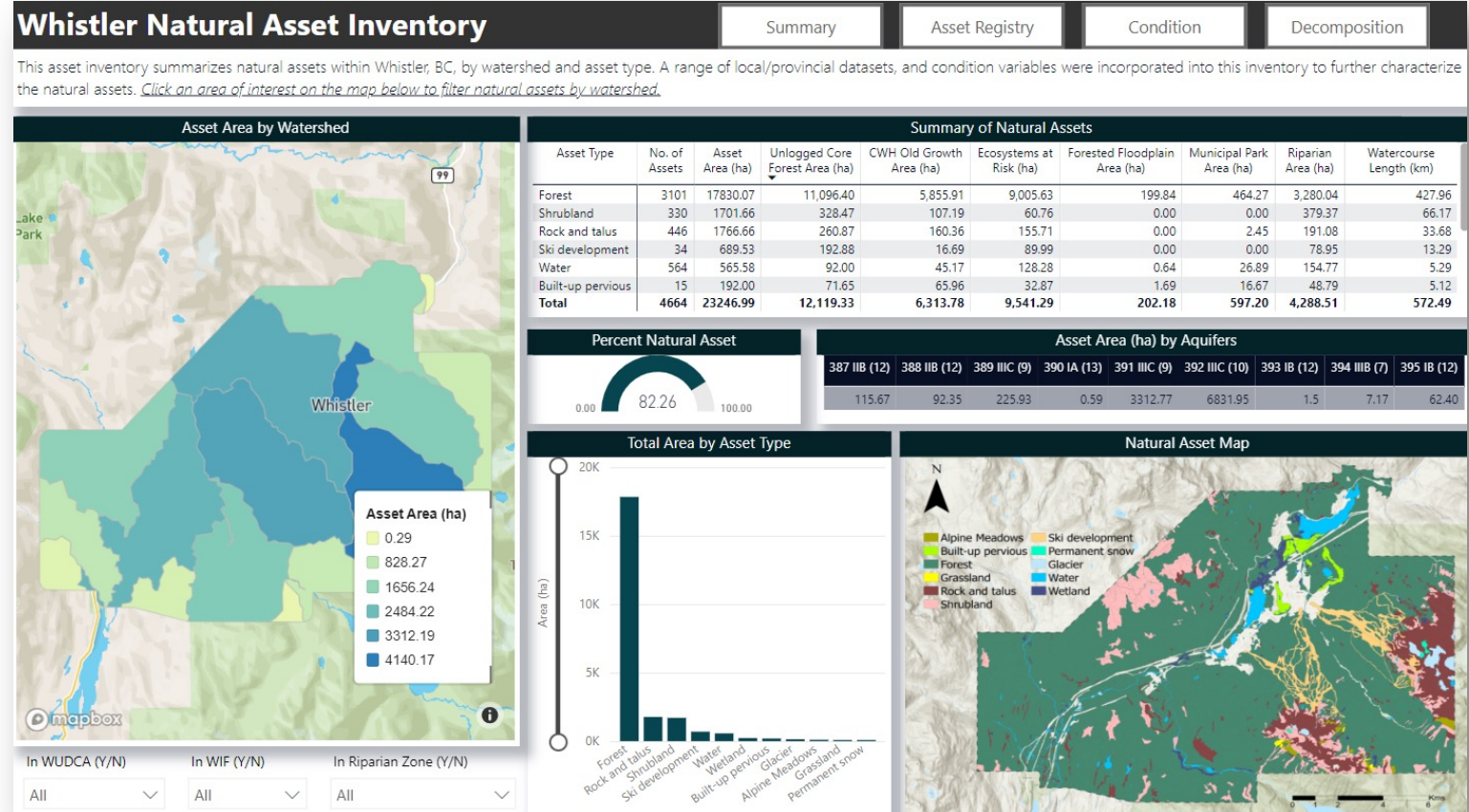
Photo: River of Golden Dreams main channel and Whistler's largest wetland complex

Where are we at with managing Natural Assets?



Increase resilience to extreme weather events

- ✓ Inventory of key natural assets
- ✓ Basic condition & risk assessments
- ✓ Roadmap
- ✓ Level of Service framework
- ✓ Current initiatives



Screenshot of Inventory of Whistler's key natural assets

Next Steps in Natural Asset Management Initiative



Increase resilience to extreme weather events



- Conduct economic valuation of assets
- Detailed risk assessments
- Develop MNA mgmt. plans
- Integrate with broader municipal asset mgmt. system
- Implement, monitor & adapt

Photo: Old forests in the Callaghan Valley

Other climate resilience measures

Protect local ecosystems and biodiversity



- Invasive Species Management
- Ecosystem & Species Monitoring Program



Photo: Red-listed Northern Goshawk in Whistler



Photo: SSISC field crew members removing Yellow flag iris at local wetland



Questions?





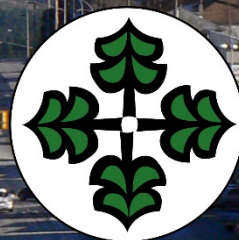
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Mid-Sized Communities Forum

**Homelessness in Our Communities:
How Municipalities are Taking the Lead**

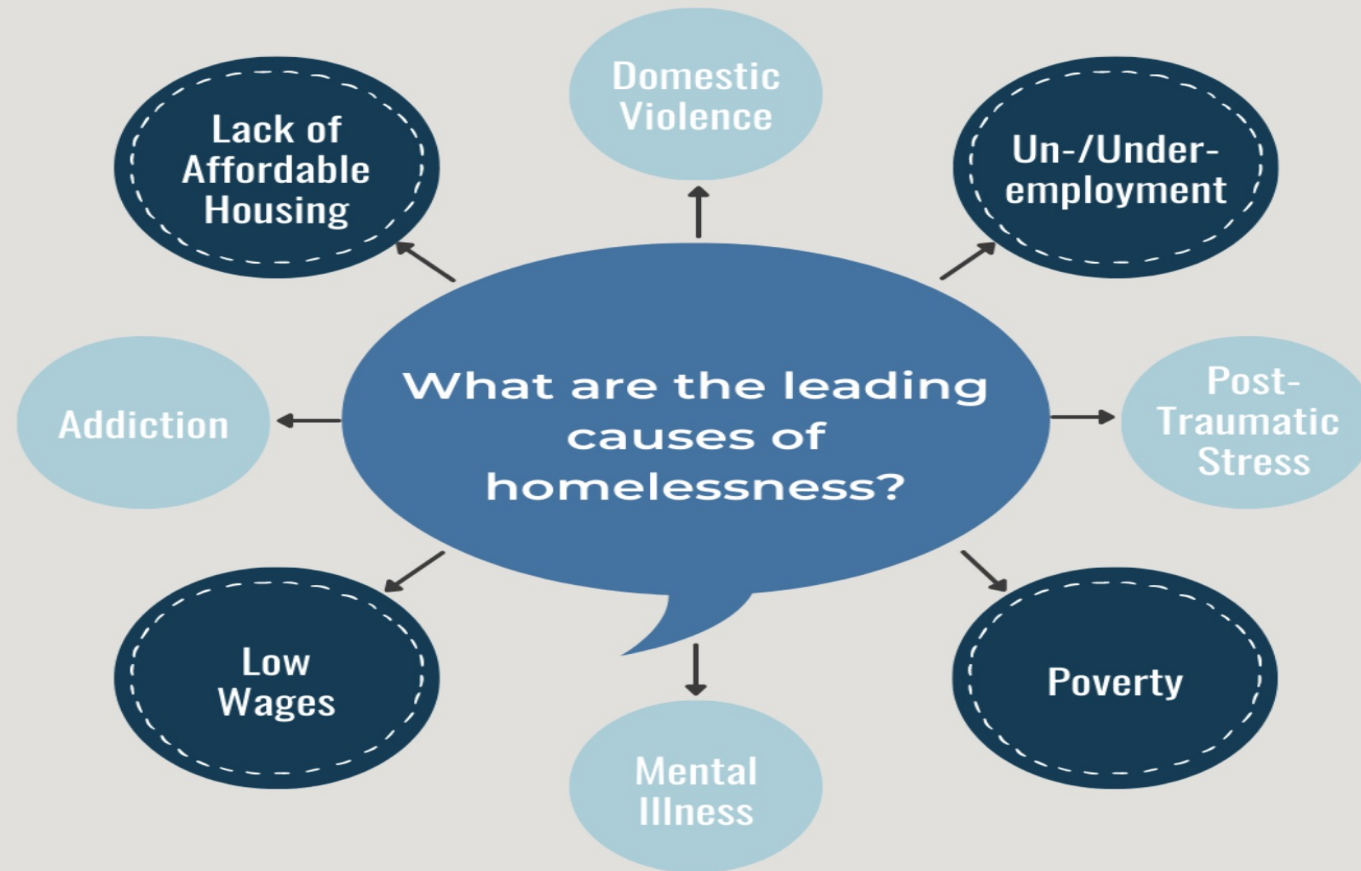


City of Port Alberni

September 2024



Overarching Reasons for Homelessness



Multiple Factors



- Incidence of Trauma
- Outcomes of Trauma
 - Crisis Response Teams
 - Brain Aid
 - Medication
 - Detox, Stabilization, Rehabilitation and Integration programs



How to get there?



- Provincial agencies to take an integrated approach
- Resources in our community and united front
- Continued Lobbying
- Discontinue Service Outside of Municipal Jurisdictions



“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an Ocean.”

~ Ryunosuke Satoro ~





Council Todd Patola

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todd_patola@portalberni.ca

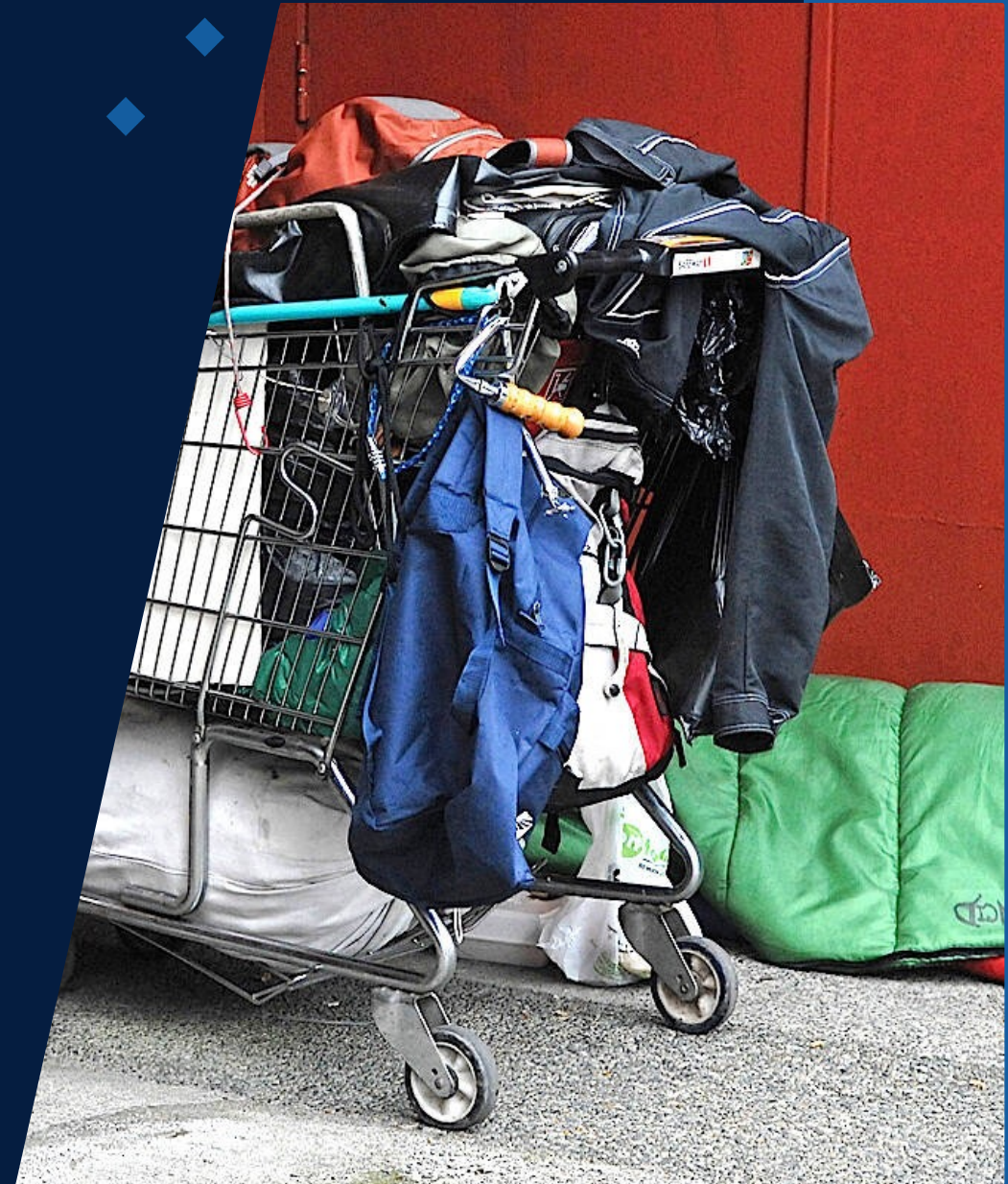


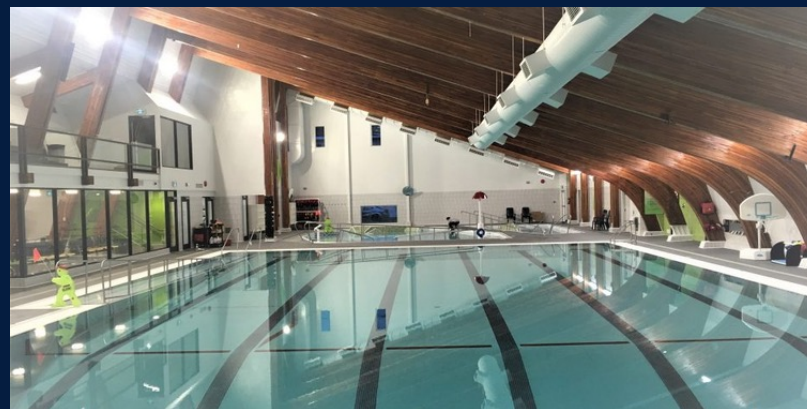
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IMPACTS OF HOMELESSNESS

Mayor Sean Bujtas
UBCM 2024





**GREATER VANCOUVER:
1 IN 548**

**TERRACE:
1 IN 83**

**IF GREATER VANCOUVER HAD THE SAME
RATE OF HOMELESSNESS AS TERRACE,
THEIR HOMELESS POPULATION WOULD BE
ALMOST 6X HIGHER**

(FROM 4,821 PEOPLE TO 28,963 PEOPLE)

Home · Local News

Recently expanded Terrace shelter operating above capacity

18 additional beds added in 2023 still not enough to meet demand

[Rod Link](#)

Nov 20, 2023 9:24 AM

Updated Nov 20, 2023 9:25 AM



Joe's Place, the Ksan Society's new shelter on Tetrault, has more demand for beds than its official capacity. (Staff photo)

Terrace's only emergency homeless shelter already fills up beyond its official capacity despite having almost doubled in size earlier this year.



- **207 WELLNESS CHECKS**
- **113 RIDE ASSISTS**
- **192 INSTANCES OF RESOURCES
(FOOD, WATER, CLOTHING)**

- **647 INSTANCES OF LOITERING**
- **262 DRUG-RELATED OCCURRENCES**
- **653 DRINKING OCCURRENCES**
- **31 INSTANCES OF PEOPLE CREATING A DISTURBANCE**

British Columbia

Homeless man found dead in northwestern B.C. tent camp following freezing night

B.C. Coroners Service has not yet confirmed cause of death, community says victim well known

Tom Popyk · CBC News · Posted: Dec 23, 2022 6:26 PM PST | Last Updated: December 23, 2022



Snow-covered tents are pictured in Vancouver on Dec. 21. Officials in Terrace say a man well-known in the community was found dead inside a tent in a homeless encampment in the northwestern B.C. city on Dec. 22. (Ben Nelms/CBC)

City cleans up downtown Terrace tent city

City says encampments not a solution to homelessness

Michael Bramadat-Willcock
Jan 17, 2023 12:30 PM
Updated Jan 17, 2023 6:32 PM



The city cleared what remained of a homeless encampment at the old Co-op lot in downtown Terrace Jan. 11. (Staff photo)

City of Terrace bylaw officers dismantled the tent city encampment at the old Co-op property owned by the city Jan. 11 to address safety concerns after the death of a local man in his tent during cold weather before Christmas.





The organization Kermode Friendship Society is putting pressure on Terrace politicians to provide a safe place where people who don't have a place to stay can live. Photo: Tarea Roberge.





COST SUMMARY (1 YEAR)

EXPENDITURE	COST
BYLAW/COMMUNITY SAFETY/DOWNTOWN SAFETY OFFICERS	\$437,440
DOWNTOWN LITTER PICKUP	\$23,456
TEMPORARY OUTDOOR BATHROOMS	\$56,000
PERMANENT OUTDOOR BATHROOM (INSTALL)	\$98,090
PERMANENT OUTDOOR BATHROOM (CLEANING)	\$21,000
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO ENCAMPMENTS	\$17,558
MEDICAL OVERDOSE CALLS	\$36,952
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	\$159,222
SUMMARY OF COSTS (1 YEAR)	\$849,718



ROOM FOR ALL

HOUSING SOLUTIONS AS THE NORTHWEST GROWS

CONFERENCE IN TERRACE, BC
MARCH 4 & 5, 2024

Cost: \$250 + taxes and fees
Register deadline: February 29, 2024
engage@terrace.ca





THANK YOU

Mayor Sean Bujtas
UBCM 2024





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UBCM 2024

Homelessness Costs to Municipalities

Councillor Wes Graham

City of Cranbrook

2024 UBCM



MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY

CRANBROOK

Regional Centers for Services



Cranbrook Women's Resource Centre | Homelessness Outreach and Prevention | Better at Home
Cranbrook Food Recovery | Farm Kitchen | Poverty and Family Law Advocates | Community Partner Program
Kootenay Child Development Centre | SKCCM | Just 4 Kids | CAPC | Family Feast | EK Infant Development
EK Supported Child Development | Belles to Babies | Circle of Security & Nobody's Perfect Parenting Programs
Family Resource Program | Step Beyond Shelter | Life Balance Health & Fitness

MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY
CRANBROOK

Cost for Emergency Services



MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY
CRANBROOK

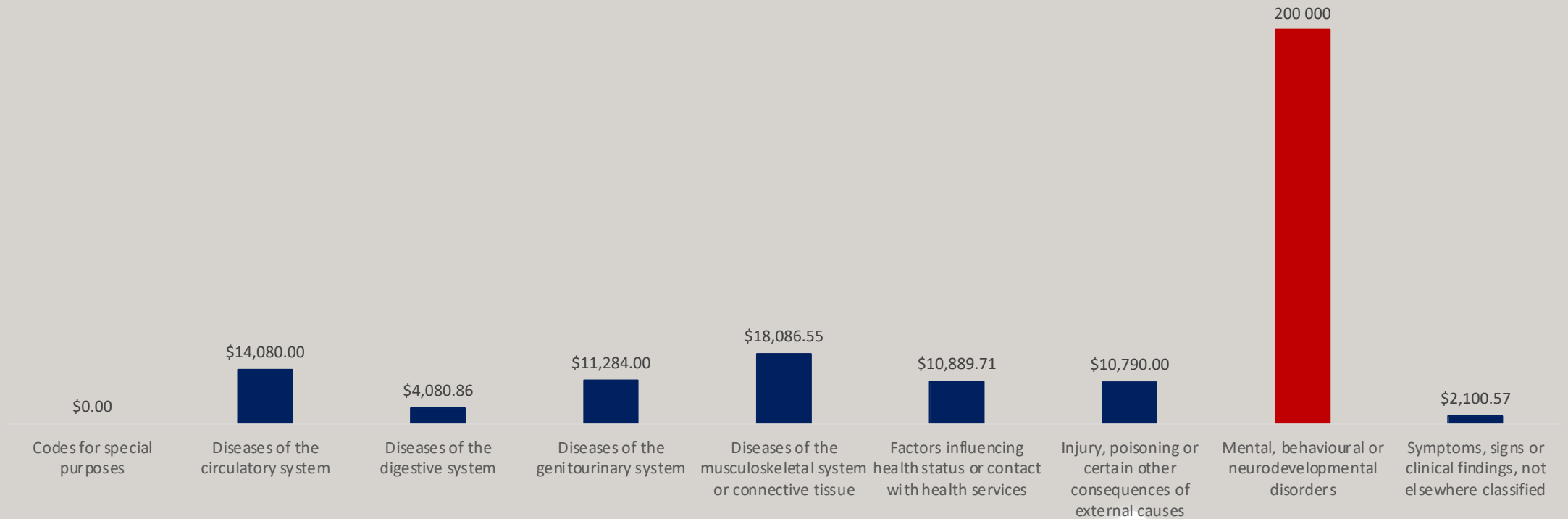
Cost for Emergency Services



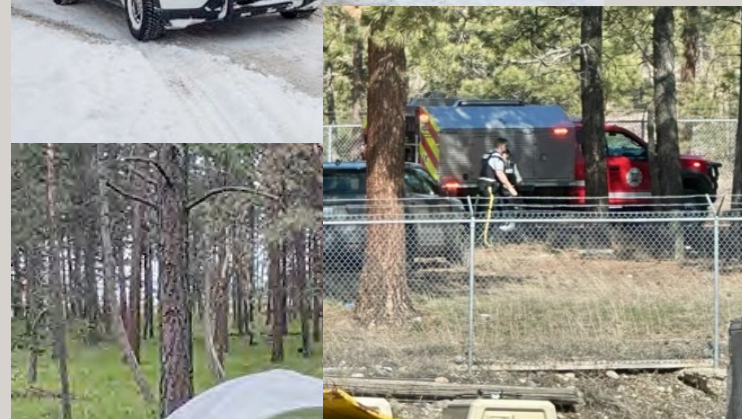
Mental Health Trends

Total Paid Claims by Short Term Disability Category

February 1st, 2022 - September 12th, 2022



Extra Staff, New Tasks, No time for primary municipal work



Loss of Community Space



Petty Crime to Businesses





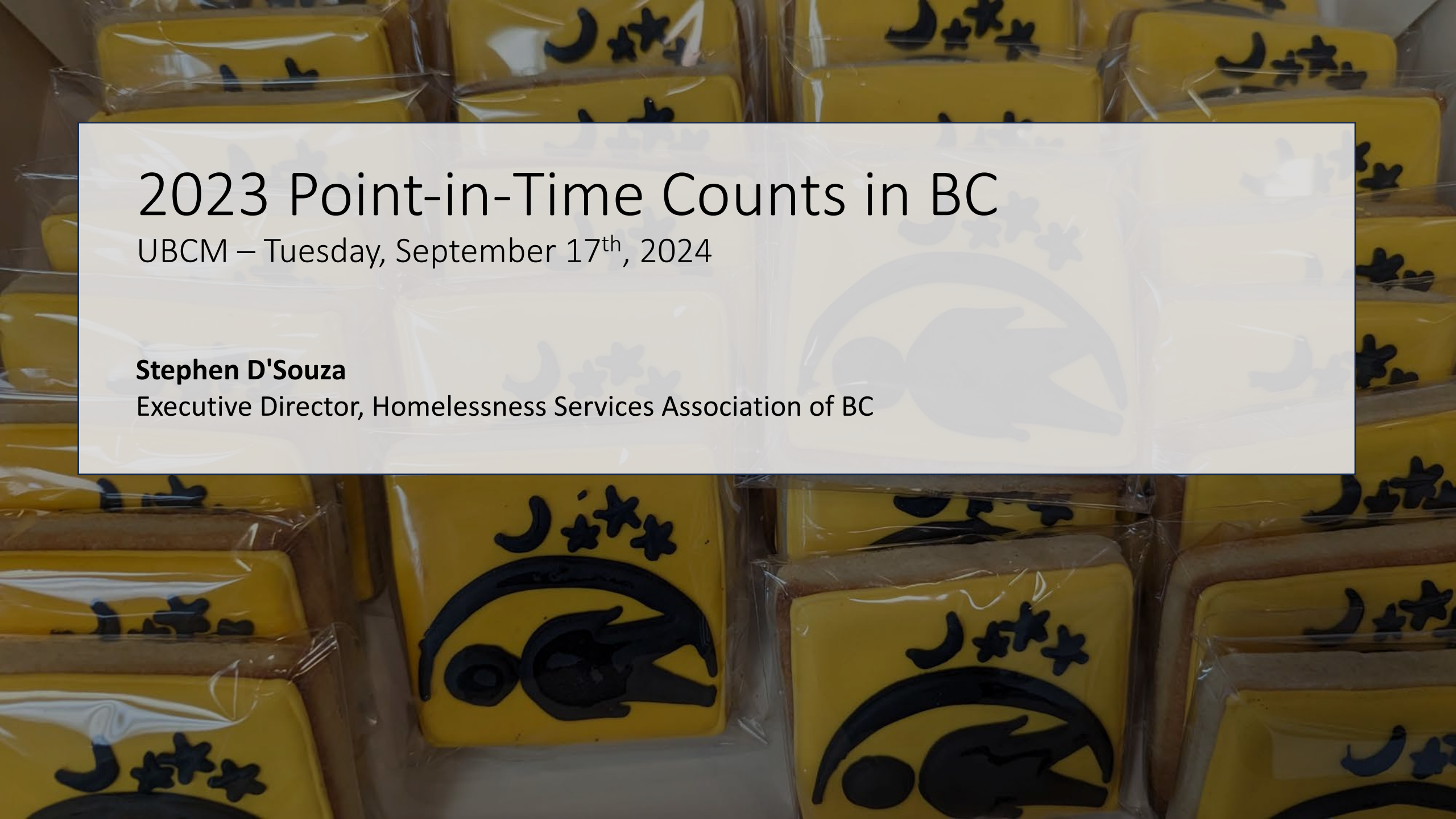
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UBCM 2024

2023 Point-in-Time Counts in BC

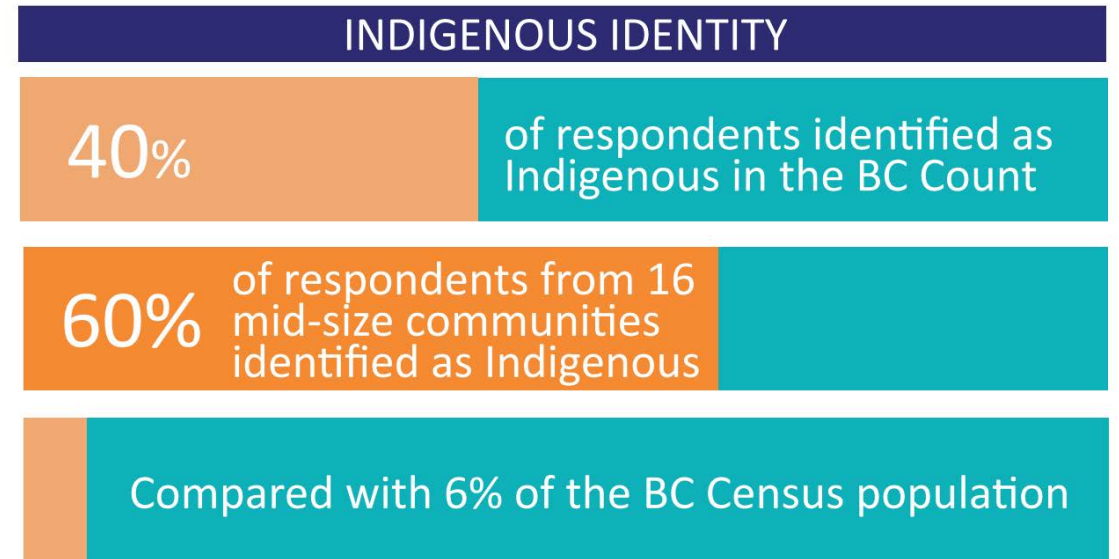
UBCM – Tuesday, September 17th, 2024

Stephen D'Souza

Executive Director, Homelessness Services Association of BC



Counts included in this presentation were conducted on the territories of the Chemainus, Gitxsan, Haisla, K'ómoks, Ktunaxa, Kwantlen, k^wik^wə́əm, Leq'á:mel, Lhtako Dene, Ligwilda'xw People (Including Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, and Kwiakah First Nations), Musqueam, Nanoose, Nlaka'pamux, Nuu-chah-nulth, shíshálh (Sechelt), Semiamhoo, Stó:lo, (Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw) Squamish, Treaty 8, T̓silhqot'in, Wet'suwet'en First Nations, and the Cowichan Tribes



Residential School Experience

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

71%

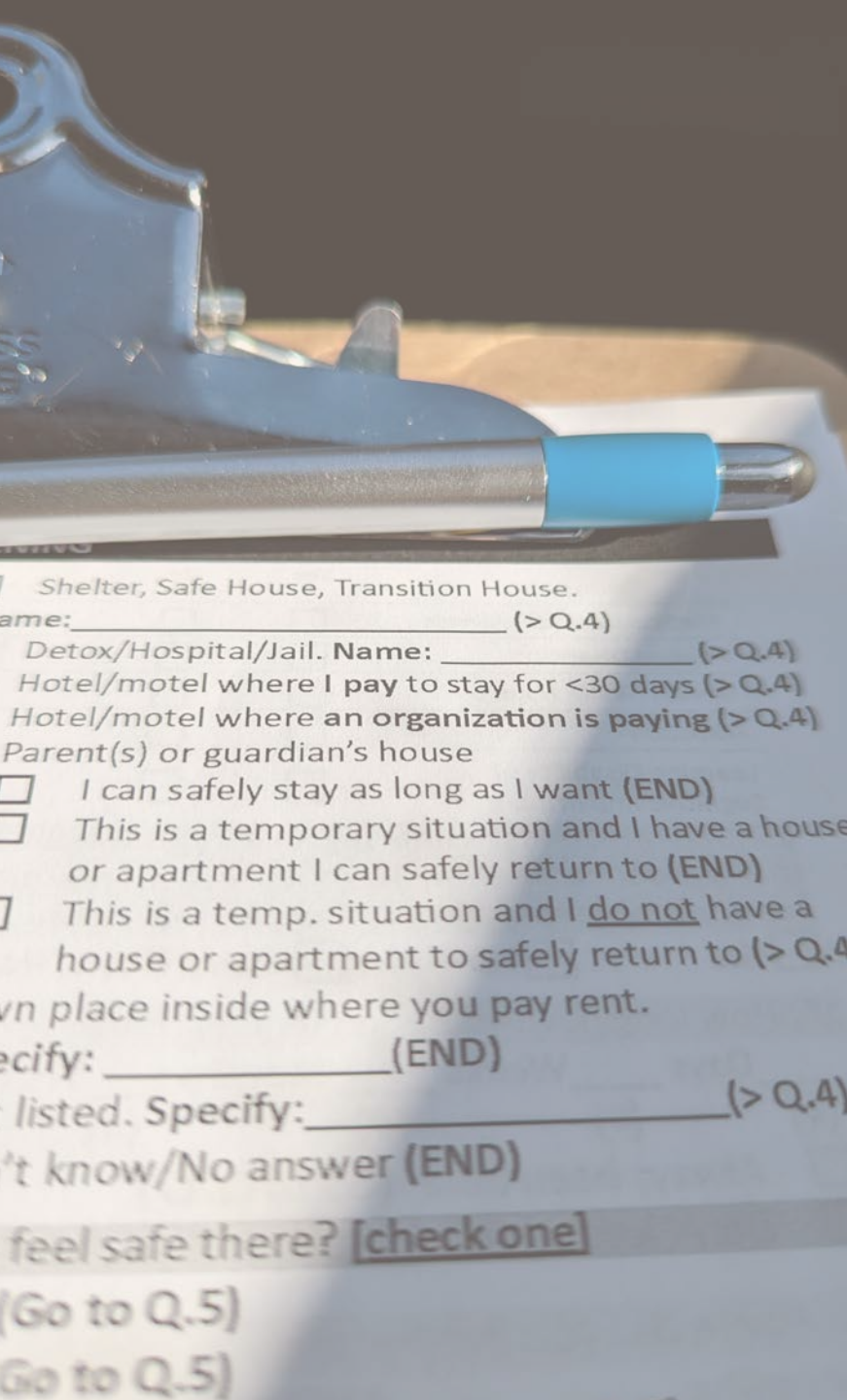
of Indigenous-identifying respondents reported having lived or generational experience with residential school in the BC Count

79%

of Indigenous-identifying respondents from 16 mid-size communities reported having lived or generational experience with residential schools

“I almost don’t even know how to respond except the legacy of the Indian Residential School system continues to have a profound impact on Indigenous health disparities. It really does need to be addressed through an upstream approach. It moves the narrative on disparities from abstract to ongoing living experiences with systemic oppression, injustice, and a failure to reconcile with Indigenous people on equitable access to housing. If we are to see housing as a human right, than this data represents the ongoing violation of Indigenous human rights to access safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing.”

- Thiyustun “Rocky” James,
Indigenous scholar and entrepreneur



2023 BC Point-in-Time Homeless Counts

HSABC, on behalf of BC Housing and the Ministry of Housing, supported local coordinators in conducting Point-in-Time Counts in the Spring of 2023 in these 16 communities on:

Sechelt/Gibsons	March 3 rd	Prince Rupert	April 13 th
Quesnel	March 10 th	Cranbrook	April 13 th
Williams Lake	March 10 th	Terrace	April 18 th
Merritt	March 15 th	Powell River	April 25 th
Dawson Creek	March 17 th	Parksville/Qualicum	April 26 th
Kitimat	March 28 th	Salmon Arm	April 28 th
Smithers	April 12 th	Port Alberni	May 2 nd



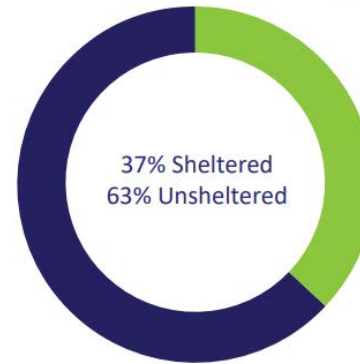
11,352

People were identified as experiencing homelessness in the BC Count

1,411

People were identified as experiencing homelessness in these 16 mid-sized communities

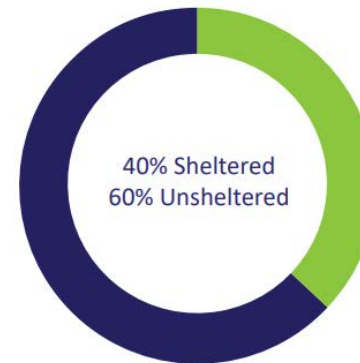
Where did individuals stay the night of the count in these 16 mid-sized communities?



Of Unsheltered Respondents



Where did individuals stay the night of the count - BC Total



Of Unsheltered Respondents



Results

	2020/1	2023	Population	Per Capita	# Change
Prince Rupert	118	146	12,883	1.13%	28
Williams Lake	51	77	11,422	0.67%	26
Merritt	43	67	7,415	0.90%	24
Port Alberni	125	163	19,496	0.84%	38
Parksville/Qualicum Beach	87	103	24,096	0.43%	16
Smithers	33	57	5,622	1.01%	24
Cranbrook	63	116	22,053	0.53%	53
Sechelt and Gibsons	84	97	16,155	0.60%	13
Quesnel	121	127	10,070	1.26%	6
Terrace	NA	156	12,959	1.20%	NA
Dawson Creek	NA	52	13,013	0.40%	NA
Kitimat	NA	55	8,864	0.62%	NA
Powell River	NA	126	14,776	0.85%	NA
Salmon Arm	NA	69	20,583	0.34%	NA

GENDER BC TOTAL



Man



Woman



Another
Gender
Identity

GENDER 16 COMMUNITIES



Man



Woman



Another
Gender
Identity



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

11%

of respondents
identified as
2SLGBTQIA+

TRANS EXPERIENCE

3%

of respondents
identified as having
trans experience

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

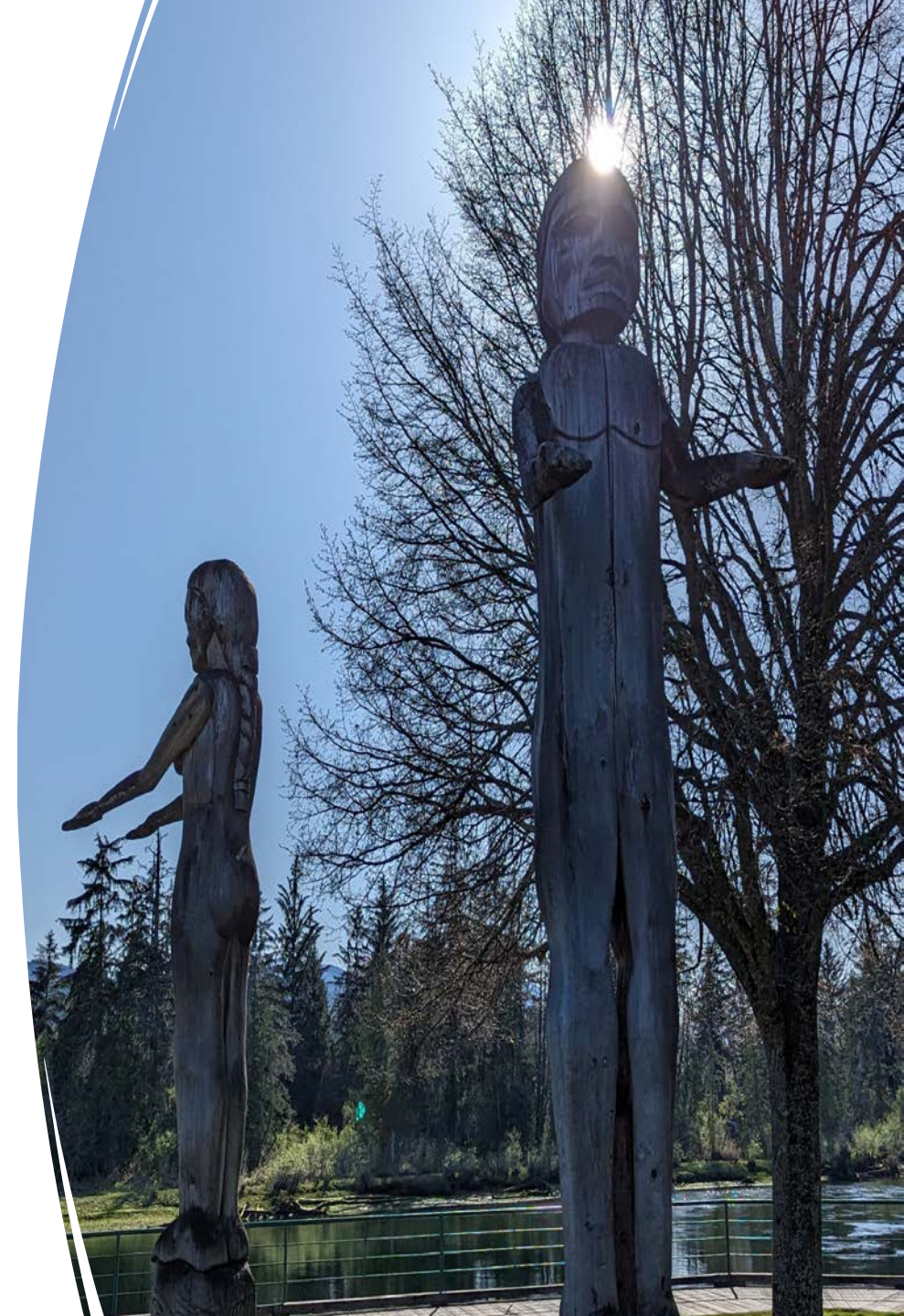
12%

of respondents
identified as
2SLGBTQIA+

TRANS EXPERIENCE

3%

of respondents
identified as having
trans experience



AGE BREAKDOWN

BC TOTAL

9%

69%

22%

16 COMMUNITIES

11%

69%

20%

Youth
Under 25

Adult
25-54

Senior
55+



47%

Experienced homelessness
for the first time as a youth

BC TOTAL

52%

Experienced homelessness
for the first time as a youth

16 COMMUNITIES



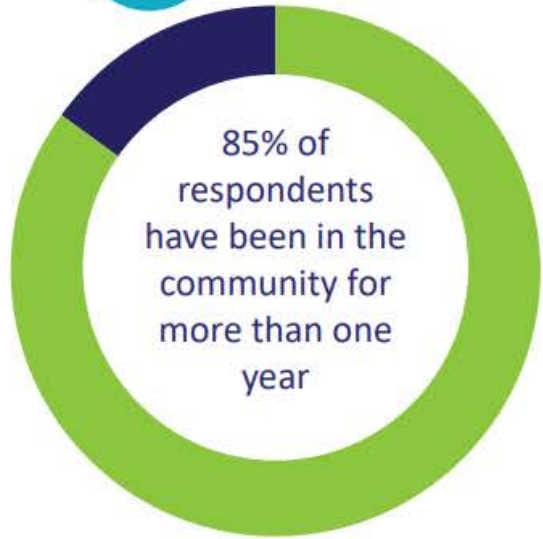
LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
BC COUNT

18%

Under six months

70%

One year or more



67%

have been in the community for five years or more

23%

Have always been in the community

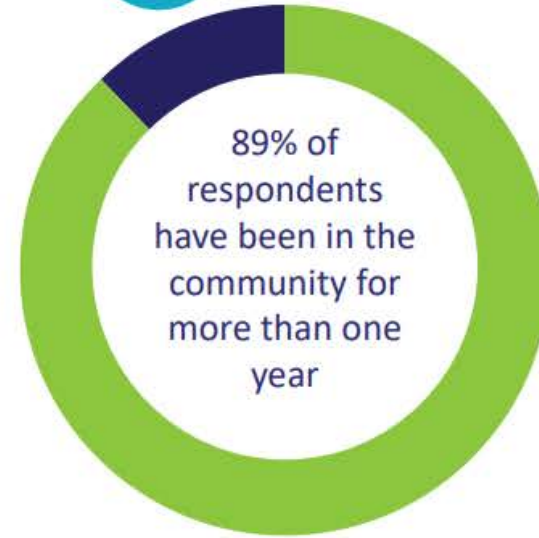
LENGTH OF TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
16 MID-SIZED COMMUNITIES

19%

Under six months

68%

One year or more



73%

have been in the community for five years or more

33%

Have always been in the community



REASONS FOR HOUSING LOSS BC COUNT

37%
Not Enough
Income

25%
Substance Use
Issue

17%
Landlord/
Tenant
Conflict

17%
Conflict with
Spouse or
Partner

REASONS FOR HOUSING LOSS 16 MID-SIZED COMMUNITIES

40%
Not Enough
Income

27%
Substance Use
Issue

20%
Conflict with
Spouse or
Partner

18%
Landlord/
Tenant
Conflict

Lessons Learned

Humanize not demonize –
language matters

Encampments as opportunities to
foster safety and connection

Hear the quiet voices – invite lived
experience into the conversation

Thank you



HSABC
Homelessness Services
Association of BC



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The Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation

In appreciation of our speakers today and with thanks for your contribution, UBCM has made a donation to The Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation. The Foundation works collaboratively with its Donors, Healthcare Partners and has been instrumental in contributing over \$40 million towards essential equipment, enhancing facilities, and supporting the ongoing education of healthcare professionals and medical staff.